

ABSTRACT

In the well assembly of the invention, a downhole pump assembly has an intake and a discharge outlet. A capsule enclosing the pump assembly selectively isolates the pump assembly from well fluid by way of a flow control device. A conduit having open upper and lower ends extends sealingly through the capsule for accessing a portion of the well below the capsule. The invention also includes a method of pumping fluid from a well wherein a pump assembly enclosed in a capsule is protected from pressure. In this method, the pump is shut off and well fluid is blocked from the interior of the capsule. Pressure is then applied to the well fluid surrounding the capsule, the capsule isolating the pump assembly from the pressure.